

Message Text

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44

ACTION ARA-06

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 8938

LIMDIS

PASS USIA/ILA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC, PFOR, AR

SUBJECT: REDUCTIONS IN USIS ARGENTINA

REF: A. STATE 260965, B. BUENOS AIRES 8102, C. BUENOS AIRES 8103

1. DEPARTMENT'S PROPOSAL (REF A) TO CUT EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGES POSITION INSTEAD LINCOLN CENTER LIBRARIAN SLOT NOT SEEN AS VIABLE SOLUTION TO USIS-ARGENTINA'S PROGRAMMING PROBLEMS IN LIGHT OVERALL SY CUTS. COUNTRY TEAM STRONGLY FEELS THAT EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGES JOB SHOULD BE RETAINED AND LIBRARIAN POSITION CUT, AS OUTLINED IN REF B.

2. COUNTRY TEAM'S POSITION IS THAT, DUE FACT LINCOLN LIBRARY NO OPEN TO PUBLIC BECAUSE OF SY STRICTURES AND NOT FUNCTIONING TO FULLEST POSSIBLE EXTENT, THERE IS MUCH GREATER MISSION NEED FOR EXPERIENCED EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGES OFFICER HANDLING PIVOTAL MISSION WIDE PROGRAMMING POSITION, ONE AREA THAT CAN FUNCTION TO FULLEST EXTENT WITH LITTLE INTERFERENCE SY RESTRICTIONS.

3. SO LONG AS SECURITY CONDITIONS WHICH HAVE NECESSITATED PERSONNEL CUTS OBTAIN, LINCOLN CENTER WILL NOT BE OPEN TO PUBLIC. WHEN THOSE CONDITIONS HAVE BEEN SUFFICIENTLY OVERCOME TO PERMIT
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OPENING OF CENTER, WE CAN ALSO BEGIN TO RESTORE SOME OF THE

SLOTS WE HAVE LOST, INCLUDING THAT OF LIBRARIAN. HENCE, IT WOULD SEEM MORE RELEVANT TO LOSE LIBRARIAN AT THIS TIME AND KEEP MUCH-NEEDED EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGES SLOT. COUNTRY TEAM ALSO FEELS EXCELLENT SKILLS ARGENTINE NATIONALS WORKING AT LIBRARY MAKE THEM COMPETENT TO HANDLE LIBRARY IN PRESENT UNOPENED STATE, WITH APPROPRIATE SUPERVISION FROM USIS CULTURAL SECTION.

4. MISSION WISHES EMPHASIZE THAT IN COUNTRY WITH SUCH HIGH INTELLECTUAL, CULTURAL AND SCHOLARLY ATTAINMENTS AS ARGENTINA, AS WELL AS POLITICAL SOPHISTICATION, THE EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM IS OF GREATEST IMPORTANCE THIS PARTICULAR TIME AND NEEDS FULL-TIME ATTENTION EXPERIENCED OFFICER.

5. COUNTRY TEAM, WITH FULLEST BACKING AMBASSADOR, URGES INTER-AGENCY SY PERSONNEL COMMITTEE RECONSIDER PROPOSAL IN REF AND AGREE TO ORIGINAL MISSION PROPOSAL AS RECOMMENDED REF B.

6. ADVISE.
HILL

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